

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 115316  
ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ:FLW  
APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. HURWITZ  
EA/P - MR. SMITH (SUBSTANCE)  
-----192330Z 093504 /13  
O 192151Z MAY 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST STORY ON U.S. GENERAL'S STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE ON SUBJECT WASHINGTON POST  
STORY PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT'S MAY 19 NOON PRESS BRIEFING:

QUOTE QUESTION: WHAT CAN THE DEPARTMENT SAY ABOUT TODAY'S  
WASHINGTON POST REPORT OF A U.S. GENERAL'S VIEW THAT WITH-  
DRAWING OUR GROUND TROOPS FROM KOREA CAN LEAD TO WAR?

ANSWER: THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID THAT WE WILL BE WITHDRAWING  
OUR GROUND COMBAT FORCES FROM KOREA OVER A FOUR TO FIVE  
YEAR PERIOD AND THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE DONE IN WAYS WHICH  
WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE SECURITY SITUATION ON THE  
PENINSULA. WE WOULD BE KEEPING OUR AIR FORCE AND NAVAL  
UNITS IN THE AREA AND IN KOREA, AND WE WILL BE CONTINUING  
OUR EFFORTS TO UPGRADE THE COMBAT CAPABILITIES OF THE KOREAN  
ARMED FORCES. THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID ALSO THAT WE WILL BE  
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CONSULTING CLOSELY WITH THE KOREANS AND THE JAPANESE ON  
THIS. AS YOU KNOW, THAT WILL BE THE MISSION OF UNDER  
SECRETARY HABIB AND JCS GENERAL BROWN DURING THEIR TRIP TO  
KOREA AND JAPAN NEXT WEEK.

QUESTION: HOW ABOUT YOUR VIEWS ABOUT THE GENERAL'S CLAIM

THAT THE DECISION TO WITHDRAW IS BASED ON OUTDATED  
INTELLIGENCE DATA?

ANSWER: OBVIOUSLY, THE PRESIDENT IS FULLY AWARE OF ALL THE  
FACTORS, INCLUDING THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INTELLIGENCE,  
WHICH GO INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY.

QUESTION: ANY OTHER DETAILS OF THE HABIB/BROWN TRIP?

ANSWER: I HOPE TO HAVE SOME TOMORROW. UNQUOTE

2. ACTUAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS BEING CARRIED IN WIRELESS  
FILE. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INSTRUCTIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, THE PRESS, PRESS CONFERENCES, PRESS RELEASES  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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